CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A fluid personal care composition comprising a metal oxide silicate capable of absorbing a malodorous compound and a vehicle; the metal oxide silicate described by the formula: x $MO:SiO_2$, wherein M is at least one multivalent metal cation selected the group consisting of calcium, magnesium, and zinc, x is the number of moles of metal oxide, x being equal to or greater than about 1; and the metal oxide silicate has an oil absorption of greater than 50 ml/ 100 g.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (original): The fluid personal care composition according to claim 1, wherein x is from about 2 to about 3.

Claim 4 (original): The fluid personal care composition according to claim 1, wherein the metal oxide silicate has an oil absorption of between about 50 ml /100 g and about 250 ml/100 g.

Claim 5 (original): The fluid personal care composition according to claim 1, wherein the metal oxide silicate has a 5% pH of between about 9 and about 10.

Claim 6 (original): The fluid personal care composition according to claim 1, wherein the metal oxide silicate has an average particle size of less than 30 μm.

Claim 7 (canceled)

Claim 8 (original): The fluid personal care composition according to claim 3, wherein the at least one multivalent metal cation is selected from the group consisting of calcium and magnesium cations.

Claim 9 (original): The fluid personal care composition according to claim 1, wherein the composition is a deodorant and is in a form selected from the group consisting of solid stick deodorants, liquid roll-on deodorants, aerosol, and pump spray deodorants, semi-solid gel deodorants, soap bars, and deodorant lotions and creams.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A fluid personal care composition comprising:

(a) about 0.5 wt% to about 20 wt% of a metal oxide silicate the metal oxide silicate described by the formula: x $MO:SiO_2$, wherein M is at least one multivalent metal cation selected from the the group consisting of calcium, magnesium, and zinc, x is the number of moles of metal oxide, x being equal to or greater than about 1; and the metal oxide silicate has an oil absorption of greater than 50 ml/100 g; and

(b) about 80 wt% to about 99.9 wt% of other personal care composition ingredients

selected from the group comprising a vehicle, thickeners, rheology modifiers, pH buffering agents, additional malodor control agents, fragrance materials, dyes, and pigments, preservatives, skin aids, cosmetic astringents, liquid or solid emollients, emulsifiers, film formers, propellants, skin-conditioning agents, such as humectants, skin protectants, solvents, solubilizing agents, suspending agents, surfactants, waterproofing agents, viscosity increasing agents, waxes, and wetting agents.

Claim 11 (currently amended): A method of inhibiting body odor by applying to the skin an effective amount of a personal care composition comprising a metal oxide silicate capable of absorbing a malodorous compound, the metal oxide silicate being characterized by the formula: x $MO:SiO_2$, wherein M is at least one multivalent metal cation selected from the group consisting of calcium, magnesium, and zinc, x is the number of moles of metal oxide, x being equal to or greater than about 1; and the metal oxide silicate has an oil absorption of greater than 50 ml/100g.